Appl. No.

10/747,812

Filed

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December 29, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the abstract as follows:

ABSTRACT

Disclosed are felexible pouches including a process for manufacturing thesaid pouches from preforms. Also disclosed is a A process for manufacturing and filling thesaid pouches wherein the preform/pouch is handled via the neck portion throughout the production line. In one embodiment, the filled pouch is further dressed, decorated, or inserted into a rigid outer container, for example a box. In a preferred embodiment, the production line is a modified version of the type commonly used for handling rigid containers, such as those used to manufacture and fill soft drinks.